14th February 1959]

Discovery of cannon balls at Sarabendrarajapatnam

* 340 Q.—SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that cannon balls of various sizes were discovered at Sarabendrarajapatnam in Pattukkottai taluk, Tanjore district;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of these cannon balls are being sold for steel in the market; and

(c) if so, what steps are taken to preserve these historical relics?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) It is likely that the finder of the cannon balls has disposed of some of them. But it is estimated that the number of the balls so disposed of will not exceed 100. The Police Department is still investigating. The remainder, numbering about 2,710 are now under the custody of the local village officers, pending their removal to the Taluk office, Pattukkottai.

SRI S. LAZAR: How is the existence of these cannon balls accounted for?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: An investigation will have to be made and it is not possible to say how they came to be buried there.

Drinking-water well

* 341 Q.—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the District Collector, Tiruchirappalli, has received any petition, dated 11th November 1958, from the President, Panchayat, Ponparappi, Udaivarpalayam taluk, Tiruchirappalli district, regarding the construction of a drinking-water well with over-head tanks at Ponparappi; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: (a) The Revenue Divisional Officer, Ariyalur, received the petition.

(b) The work is in progress.

Chit funds

* 342 Q.—SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring in legislation to control and regulate chit funds;

(b) if so, what its salient features are?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The draft of a Bill has been referred to the Government of India for their concurrence. It is, therefore, not possible to specify with finality the salient features of the Bill at this stage.